

Annual Report of D. E. Lyday, President State Farmers Union, Nineteenth An- nual Convention July 12, 13, 14, 1921

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

"I am proud to-day to render to this splendid audience a report of the efforts for aiding the Farmers of Texas, of what I know to be in at least some of its attributes, the greatest farmers organization ever established in Texas.

"I am particularly pleased to make this report in the Queen City of this golden Empire of the West, where the level prairies stretch away into infinite space, promising in its full development a wealth of agricultural products greater than the famous valley of the Nile.

"The Farmers' Union was organized in 1902, to aid the farmers in buying their supplies and in selling their products and to discourage the credit and mortgage system. The infant organization, and the co-operative marketing system which it advocated, struck straight at the heart of the evils which are destroying American agriculture.

"Of course an organization pledged to teach the farmers how to handle their own affairs, was not popular with those whose wealth were made by handling the farmers' products and whose profits correspondingly increased with the poverty and helplessness of the producer.

"And so a great struggle began between the farmers organized into the Farmers' Union on one side and the selfish interests on the other.

"The continued efforts of the Farmers' Union to secure better prices for farm products and to eliminate waste and excessive charges and limit the overhead expense of middlemen, have, during these years, brought the organization into conflict with practically every organized interest handling agricultural products.

"It is said that Marshal Ney, the grand old hero of France, as he was led away to die, proudly exclaimed: 'I have fought a hundred battles for France and not one against her.' So my friends the battle scarred organization assembled here to-day looks back over its record of conflict, of victory and defeat and proudly proclaim, 'We have fought a hundred battles for the farmers of Texas, and not one against them.'

"When I first joined this organization some ten years ago, the papers were busy announcing the death of the Farmers' Union, but now after nineteen years have passed, I wish to call your attention to the fact that no Farmer Farm organization has ever lived to be 19 years of age. The Farmers' Union has outlived them all and is hale and hearty yet, at least she is a very lively corpse.

"The organization is growing and increasing in popularity and usefulness, since our preceding convention we have initiated in round numbers approximately 4000 new members, nearly 3000 new members have come into this great Wichita Valley District Union, which is the largest of our five subdivisions.

"At the beginning of our convention month last year, August 1, 1920, we had cash in our treasury \$4,281.14; This year, July 1, 1921, we have \$12,203.47, or an increase in our cash balance of \$7,922.33. The Texas State Farmers' Union in former years, was often short of finances

and her executive committees were forced to borrow money, sometimes in considerable amounts, but I am proud to say that during the three terms I have served, as president of our state organization, no official or member has ever been called on to borrow money, not a penny has been contributed by any other than the membership, and there has always been a substantial cash balance in the treasury.

"There is to-day a greater balance on hand, than at any time since I have been a member of the organization.

"In its effort to establish a great co-operative marketing system the Farmers' Union has carefully studied the two great problems of production and distribution of farm products, on which the nation depends for subsistence.

"The problem of production having been largely solved by the intelligence and industry of our farmers, public attention has been centered on those of our system of distribution, which a very casual analysis soon resolves into its component factors of preparation for market, preservation, or storage and warehousing, financing and transportation.

"The student seeking a real knowledge of these problems, must investigate the intricate details of trade practice and commercial customs, both foreign and domestic. All of which subjects are included in the comprehensive term—'A co-operative marketing system.'

"In seeking to know why the American farmer does not prosper equally with others, it was found that out of every dollar paid by consumers for agricultural products, the American farmer gets less than 46 cents, the remainder being absorbed in distribution. It was further found that in some foreign countries having co-operative marketing systems, the farmers received 85 per cent to 90 per cent of each dollar paid by consumers.

"In the effort to better these agricultural conditions, the President of the United States in 1912 appointed a commission of one hundred men to go abroad and study economic conditions. This investigation was particularly directed to rural credit problems, co-operative Land Bank Legislation, for the purpose of enabling our farmers to become land owners, and to co-operative system of marketing farm products, which had saved the agricultural interests of Europe from disaster. Six members of this commission were from Texas and two of them were appointed at the special request of the State Farmers' Union. They spent six months in Europe, and came in contact with authorities on rural credit and co-operative marketing. They had the benefit of the experience and observations of David Lubin, of Sir Horace Plunkett, and others engaged in co-operative marketing work, and the Federal Land Loan Bank, which is a master piece of constructive, co-operative legislation, was established as the result of their investigations. Immediately on their return, the Texas delegation reported their investigations and conclusions, to the Texas State Farmers' Union, then in session at San Antonio.

"Markets and Warehouse Departments established at instance of Farmers' Union. At the instance and request of the Farmers' Union and with its endorsement and support, these delegates drafted a bill establishing a co-operative system of marketing for farm products and succeeded in getting the second called session of the Thirty-third Legislature to enact it into law. This legislation is commonly known as the Markets and Warehouse Law. It provided for the regulation of gains in preparing out cotton for the market, for the building and operating a great system of co-operative bonded warehouses for its storage and preservation, for the issuance of warehouse receipts giving accurate weights and grades, setting out the

condition of the cotton as well as insurance and existing liens, if any. These receipts were provided to enable bankers to finance the warehouse cotton and they constitute a liquid bankable asset, conforming to all rules and requirements of modern banking and commercial practice.

"In order to safeguard this marketing system, the Department of Markets and Warehouses was created and the entire system and the supervision and control of all the details of its operation, were lodged in the hands of the Commissioner of Markets and Warehouses. There are at present in this system nearly 250 agricultural warehouses, though owing to defective legislation, not all of them are as closely affiliated with the system as they should be. These co-operative agricultural warehouses handle a volume of business amounting to over \$100,000,000 annually.

"Three years ago the administration of the Markets and Warehouse Department was extended by law to include the supervision of the great commercial warehouse and storage companies of the state. There are about 50 of this class of warehouses now included in the system, with a volume of business in excess of \$200,000,000 each year. For the six years operation of the agricultural and three years of the commercial warehouses, the total value of commodities marketed through warehouses under the administration of the Department of Markets and Warehouses, has attained the enormous total of \$1,200,000,000.

"Under the law westablishing this great market system, it is the duty of the Department to establish agencies for the sale of Farm Products, but no appropriations were allowed for marketing during the first five years of the Department's existence. Two years ago the State Legislature at the request and with the support of Governor Hobby, appropriated \$16,400.00 for marketing purposes for the two years ending August 31st, 1921.

"Since that time we have marketed directly through the Markets and Warehouse Department, approximately \$8,000,000.00 worth of farm products, on which the farmer received at a conservative estimate an increased price of 25 per cent, or \$2,000,000.00 more than under the old system of dumping farm products on the market to be peddled or auctioned off, frequently to speculators and speculators, who were not dealers in any legitimate sense.

"Farmers' Union has built in Texas one of the greatest co-operative marketing systems in America. Recently the Department of Markets and Warehouses has been given the administration of the Weights and Measure Law. This Act is one of vital importance to consumers and merchants and affects the transactions of every citizen. This character of work is so extensive and intricate that in many states it is administered by a separate department of the state government, established for that purpose.

"Under the law establishing this department of Markets and Warehouses becomes the head of one of the greatest marketing systems, with all its branches and subdivisions, which has been established in any state. It has under its supervision and control: 2,500 gains, 1100 public weighers and 300 warehouses, every gasoline pump and every scale weight or measure of any kind, from the giant railroad tank car to that of the apothecary and of the jeweler, some of which will weigh a human hair. Every package of butter, every loaf of bread and every commodity sold in packages by merchants in Texas, are packed according to standard weights fixed by the Department.

"In co-operation with the Texas Farm Bureau Federation the Farmers' Union asked the Legislature to enact a commodity marketing law, through which producers may organize and control the sale of their commodities. This is an important step in the right direction, and the Wichita Valley District Union at once took out a charter, this being the first charter issued in Texas under the new co-operative law, but it is not in any sense a complete and perfected marketing system, and no such complete and perfected system can be established until adequate warehouses, uniformly distributed over the cotton producing area are provided. I am convinced we will never have adequate warehouse facilities as long as we depend on voluntary associations of local farmers to build them. Such a system of warehouses can only be built by taxation, that is, by taxing the product to be stored.

"Some persons have argued that such a system of warehouses should be provided by bond issues, or by taxing all property. There are only about 147 real cotton producing counties in Texas, while there are over 100 that produce no cotton, or practically none. I am sure such counties would be unwilling to support bonds or general taxes to build

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Lubbock

HOGS HIGHER, FED CATTLE STRONGER; OTHERS LOWER

Kansas City Stock Yards, July 18, 1921.—Hog prices advanced today, making the highest mark since early this year. Today's advance was 15 to 25 cents. Top \$10.50, bulk \$10.00 to \$10.40. Cattle prices were uneven, only a few loads of fed cattle on sale which sold 15 to 25 cents higher than last week, common killing kinds sold lower. Yearlings sold up to \$9.40. Stockers and feeders ruled strong to 25 cents higher. Sheep were steady.

Today's Receipts.
Receipts today were 13,000 cattle, 7,000 hogs and 4,500 sheep, compared with 8,669 cattle, 8,662 hogs and 8,860 sheep a week ago and 15,429 cattle, 6,907 hogs and 7,231 sheep a year ago.

Beef Cattle.
Receipts today, while not large, were more than were expected after the mean close last week, but less than a year ago. Very few fed cattle were on sale, which looks like the prospect that fed cattle will be in demand is coming true. The market on fed cattle was stronger and 10 to 15 cents higher than last week. Yearlings sold up to \$9.40. Grass fat and plain killing kinds predominated and sold weak to unevenly lower. Cows and heifers were about steady. Calves and bulls stronger.

Stockers and Feeders.
Demand for stockers and feeders was steady to 25 cents higher. Quite a number of eastern buyers were present, making inquiry and some purchases.

Hogs.
Hog prices advanced again 15 to 25 cents, making a top of \$10.50 and all classes sold readily. Hogs weighing 250 pounds, sold up to \$10.30, and medium and lights to \$10.50. Pigs were higher, selling up to \$10.00.

Sheep and Lambs.
Prices for sheep were steady with light receipts and no good fed lambs. Native lambs sold for \$9.50 and Arizona for \$10.00. Fed Texas wethers \$5.10 and the best ewes at \$4.50.

Horses and Mules.
Horse and mule receipts were light and sold at steady prices.
CHAS. M. PIPKIN,
Market Correspondent.

ELKS LOSE TWO GAMES TO BIG SPRING

The Elk ball club played two games with Big Spring this week and were defeated in both games. However, our club was due to win Sunday as they played a "no error" game, while the opponents came out with more than a half dozen. Sanders pitched the game, which lasted twelve innings, but in the twelfth Big Spring got in two hits with two men down and broke the tie.

In the last game Lubbock hit well but were off in catching and throwing, making some eight or ten errors, and the opponents three. Big Spring tried their old stand by pitcher Preacher True, but took him off in the fourth inning. Mueller pitched for Lubbock.

"This organization stands for justice and equal rights and will be satisfied with nothing else.

"Four years ago I accepted your commission as president of this organization and stated my unalterable purpose to purge it of every unclean and unworthy thing.

"Today I declare to you the accomplishment of that purpose, and I present to you an organization clean as a hound's-tooth living in conscious purity of purpose, satisfied in its own self respect and worthy of the confidence and respect of all men.

"I have accomplished my purpose, am supremely happy in the knowledge and I possess the respect and confidence of our membership and I now surrender my commission into your hands, with an earnest prayer for the future of the organization and the membership whose associations I shall always cherish."

Mrs. Rosalia Rushing and daughter Dorothy, of Plainview, have been visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Atkins.

Mrs. O'Neal and daughters, of the O'Neal Shop, left for New Mexico, the first of this week, where they will spend a few days visiting with relatives.

MR. AND MRS. POLLOCK

Who will have charge of the music in the Christian Church Revival

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